

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY SECURES \$2.125 MILLION FOR BINGHAMTON HUB

Additional \$250,000 Goes to Reverse Commute Program

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today announced that the \$2.125 million he placed in a federal spending bill for the multi-purpose passenger transportation facility in downtown Binghamton is included the omnibus spending bill agreed to today. Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also secured \$2 million in the FY '02 appropriations process last year.

"This transportation hub will bring tremendous benefits to Binghamton," said Hinchey. "The downtown area will be revitalized and services will be improved. It will also greatly enhance the first impression people will have of the city, creating the potential for additional outside investment."

The hub will facilitate the transfer of passengers from the local bus and paratransit systems to the regional and intercity bus and rail systems. It will provide riders with safe and efficient transfers between different types of transportation as well as shelter from wind, rain and snow. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6.3 million. In addition to the \$2 million Hinchey secured last year and the \$2.125 million this year, the project will utilize an additional \$1 million in federal funds through the Surface Transportation Federal Highway Program.

Hinchey also succeeded in placing \$250,000 in the spending bill for Broome County Transit through the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program. These funds will allow BC Transit to increase access to employment opportunities for residents of the South and West End corridors of the City of Binghamton.

The FY '03 Transportation Appropriations bill in which this funding is included was rolled into an omnibus bill that will become law this week.